Definiti staff member on a COTN trip to the Dominican Republic.

Developing a Culture of Generosity

With terms like “servant leadership” and “giving back” in the company’s values, it’s no surprise Definiti Comp Solutions, a business service provider in California, has been such a generous COTN partner.

“The opportunity to have your coworkers be aware of others who have less opportunity, and then find a way for them to be able to give in whatever way they can, helps develop part of what we want our culture to be,” says Definiti’s Founder and CEO Mike Guerrero.

Definiti sponsors numerous children and has been involved with COTN in a variety of ways—from raising money for a van in the Dominican Republic to shopping the COTN Gift Catalog at Christmas.

Get your company involved by calling 360.698.7227 or emailing info@cotni.org.
Learning to Live Without a Limb

Pilot uses her tragedy to inspire amputee children in Haiti

When Air Force pilot Christy Wise lost her leg in a paddleboarding accident last year, it was an unimaginable tragedy that forever changed the course of her life. But today, she’s turning that painful night into something positive by helping amputee children in Haiti as only a fellow amputee can.

“We always joke that the miracles started that night in the water,” says Christy, “and they just haven’t stopped.” Through her faith in God and the overwhelming support of family and friends, Christy quickly recovered—competing in Paralympic events, skydiving, resuming her military flight career, and starting a nonprofit, One Leg Up On Life.

In May, Christy led a team to Haiti to work with the amputee children her sister Jessica, a COTN medical consultant, served after the 2010 earthquake. Excited to learn from someone who knew exactly what they were going through, the kids eagerly asked Christy questions and compared scars. “It was so amazing to show them we’re all in this together,” she says.

From encouraging the kids to leading them in strength training workouts, Christy pushed them to think beyond their limitations. She introduced them to a thriving Haitian amputee community, including a nonprofit that provides jobs for amputees.

“We always joke that the miracles started that night in the water,” says Christy, “and they just haven’t stopped.”

In July, Christy and Jessica returned to Haiti with a second team. They were able to finish fixing or replacing prosthetic limbs for all the COTN children and help other amputee patients. (Haiti has a vast amputee population due in large part to the 2010 earthquake, but there are only a handful of prosthetic clinics.) Christy and Jessica are already planning their next trip.

“It’s really been a crazy journey that we’ve been on the last year,” she says. “But it’s crazy just how you see God’s hand in everything.”

To hear Christy’s full story, listen to COTN’s Beyond the Village podcast at cotni.org/podcast.
You Gave Them the Tools, Now They’re Building the Future

Thanks to you, businesses are springing up across impoverished communities in Africa.

Our goal at COTN is to see the children we serve grow up to have sustainable jobs so they can support their families and create lasting change in their communities. Your support is doing this!

Some of these jobs include well drilling, farming, running their own shops, working in hospitality, and sewing. Partners like you are making these jobs and more possible through regular giving and by supporting the Business Connections Initiative, which provides microloans to students in Malawi who are interested in starting businesses. The loans are eventually paid back and go into a pool for the next group of students.

Innocent Ndhlou runs a studio in Mtsiliza, Malawi, where he records video and sound. He was able to partially pay for quality speakers through your generous loans, but he is still trying to pay off the rest of the cost of these speakers. Innocent says he sees four to five clients every day, and he believes getting quality speakers will enable him to produce quality work, and this will increase his profits.

Another former COTN student in Malawi, Chikumbutso Job, runs a piggery. He says, “I want to help others as you have helped me.” He used his business loan to purchase two pigs, and he built his own shelter for them. The manure from his pigs helps him fertilize his crops. Chikumbutso hopes to sell piglets so that he eventually has enough money to get married.

MicrolOans with business training have a much higher success rate than those without, so as part of our Business Connections Initiative, COTN created a one-week business course. A recent course in Malawi had 23 students and distributed 20 laptops. We are now looking for donations to fund these students with their own microloans.

When you give toward microloans and other long-term, sustainable initiatives, you are raising up children who can truly transform their nations. Thank you!

To learn more about COTN’s sustainable practices, visit cotni.org/sustainable-practices.
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Children of the Nations is a 501(c)(3) organization. Your donation is tax-deductible and you will receive a gift receipt in the mail. Children of the Nations (COTN) seeks to be the best possible steward of our partners’ finances. In cases where financial gifts exceed program/project budgets, or where local conditions prevent program/project implementation, COTN will redirect funds to activities that are identified as most needed or will have the biggest impact on the children and families we serve.

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GIVE A Christmas Gift That Will Last

In honor of the Greatest Gift ever given, this Christmas you can share God’s love with children in need through the COTN Gift Catalog.

You can give anything from a warm blanket ($10) to a whole cow ($100).

Let loved ones know how they’ve inspired you by giving in their honor.

When you give through the COTN Gift Catalog, you are giving health, warmth, sustainable food, education, and more—gifts that will last long after Christmas is over!

Visit cotni.org/gifts today.